



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JAN 09 2018

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sinema:

Thank you for the letter of October 17, 2017, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Food and Drug Administration regarding coordinating regulation of the products of biotechnology.

I want to assure you that EPA works closely with USDA and FDA to coordinate regulatory policies in response to stakeholder feedback. With regard to genome-edited products, in September 2016, the EPA indicated in the National Strategy for Biotechnology Products, available at <https://www.epa.gov/regulation-biotechnology-under-tsca-and-fifra/national-strategy-modernizing-regulatory-system>, the intent to clarify the approach to pesticidal products derived through genome editing. The EPA is working closely with USDA and FDA to develop approaches to genome-edited pesticidal products. We recognize the importance of keeping United States agriculture at the forefront of innovation while ensuring that products derived from biotechnology are safe and can successfully enter the marketplace, not only in the United States, but worldwide.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Sven-Erik Kaiser in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov or at (202) 566-2753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Charlotte Bertrand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charlotte" and last name "Bertrand" clearly visible.

Charlotte Bertrand
Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator